

CLAIMS

1. A fastener, comprising:

a housing sized and adapted to mate with a fastening element; and

a latch positioned relative to the housing to retain the fastening element within the

5 housing.

2. The fastener of claim 1, further including a flange and wherein the housing and the latch are both connected to the flange.

10 3. The fastener of claim 2, wherein the flange is configured so that it can be connected to a sheet of material.

4. The fastener of claim 3, wherein each of the flange and sheet of material comprise a thermoplastic and the flange and sheet of material are heat sealed together.

15 5. The fastener of claim 1, wherein the housing comprises a side wall and a retaining lip.

6. The fastener of claim 5, wherein the retaining lip comprises a notch to accommodate a fastening element attachment mechanism.

20 7. The fastener of claim 5, wherein the side wall comprises a semi-circular section.

8. The fastener of claim 1, wherein the housing is flexible.

25 9. The fastener of claim 1, wherein the latch is flexible.

10. The fastener of claim 1, wherein the latch comprises a flange generally parallel to a base of the housing and projecting towards the interior of the housing.

30 11. The fastener of claim 1, wherein the latch comprises a protrusion having a portion corresponding to the shape of the fastening element.

12. The fastener of claim 1, wherein the fastener is formed in a sheet of material.
13. A fastener assembly, comprising:
a fastening element
5 a housing connected to the bladder and sized and adapted to mate with the fastening element; and
a latch positioned relative to the housing to retain the fastening element within the housing.
- 10 14. The fastener of claim 13, wherein the fastening element is flexible.
15. The fastener of claim 13, wherein the housing is flexible.
16. A device adapted to contain a fluid, comprising:
15 a substantially impermeable fluid bladder;
a housing sized and adapted to mate with a fastening element; and
a latch positioned relative to the housing to retain the fastening element within the housing.
- 20 17. The device adapted to contain a fluid of claim 16, further comprising a flange wherein the housing and the latch are connected to the flange and the flange is connected to the substantially fluid impermeable bladder.